

and lithographic plates have been reproduced. This paper, though the facts it presents, after the lapse of twenty years, have ceased to be novel, has lost little of its interest and importance, and is well worthy of a new lease of life in an English dress. Dr. Shufeldt has therefore done a distinct service to ornithology in thus placing the paper so conveniently before English readers. He has also added a few footnotes, and given, at the close, a résumé of recent views of taxonomers on the systematic position and relationships of the Owls.—J. A. A.

Merriam and Preble on the Summer Birds of Western Maryland.—This brochure from the Reports of the Maryland Geological Survey¹ consists of two papers; the first, by Dr. C. Hart Merriam (*l. c.*, pp. 291–293), treats of ‘The Life Zones and Areas of Allegany County,’ and deals with the general floral and faunal features of the region; the second, by Mr. E. A. Preble (pp. 294–307), gives an annotated list of ‘The Summer Birds of Western Maryland,’ numbering 100 species, and all are believed to breed in the region. According to Dr. Merriam, “The fauna of Allegany County is a mixture of Carolinian and Alleghanian species and comprises, so far as known, no boreal islands. The Potomac Valley, and valleys of the principal streams, are Carolinian; the upland, Alleghanian.” In Garret County, above 2600 feet, “cold sphagnum and alder swamps abound,” which “contain a strong admixture of high Transition and even Boreal species. . . . The cutting off of the spruce and hemlock from these small boreal islands lets in the hot sun and results, in numerous instances, in changing the fauna and flora from Canadian to Alleghanian.”

We are surprised to notice a number of typographical errors in the technical names, for which doubtless the authors are not responsible. The paper is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the faunal character and summer range of the birds of western Maryland.—J. A. A.

Loomis on California Water Birds.²—This is No. V of Mr. Loomis’s series of papers on ‘California Water Birds,’ and gives the results of his observations made in the vicinity of Monterey from May 1 to June 12, 1897. A ‘Summary of Movements’ for this period of observation is given, followed by some further discussion of the ‘Cause of Return

¹ The Fauna and Flora. The Life Zones and areas of Allegany County. The Summer Birds of Western Maryland. By C. Hart Merriam and Edward A. Preble, Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agriculture. Maryland Geological Survey, Allegany County Report, pp. 291–307. Nov., 1900.

² California Water Birds. No. V. Vicinity of Monterey in May and early June. By Leverett M. Loomis, Curator of the Department of Ornithology. Proc. California Acad. of Sciences, 3d Ser., Zoöl., Vol. II, No. 5, pp. 349–363. Issued Nov. 24, 1900.